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THE USE OF *HERCLE* (MEHERCLE), *EDEPOL* (POL), *ECASTOR* (MECASTOR) BY PLAUTUS AND TERENCE.

BY FRANK W. NICOLSON.

I. COMPARISON OF THE USE OF THE WORDS *in general*.

	<i>Hercle. Mehercle.</i>	<i>Edepol.</i>	<i>Pol.</i>	<i>Ecastor. Mecastor.</i>	
<i>Plautus</i>	639 3	356	250	101 17	(=1366
<i>Terence</i>	<u>96</u> <u>2</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>5</u> <u>2</u>	(= 182
	735 + 5	378 +	305	106 + 19	(=1548

Grand total of all cases, 1548.

Plautus uses these words 1366 times in 20 plays (20,888 lines).

Terence uses these words 182 times in 6 plays (6,074 lines).

i.e. *Plautus* averages 66.3 to a play, or 1 in $15\frac{1}{3}$ lines.

Terence averages 30.3 to a play, or 1 in 33 lines.

Ratio of *Plautus* to *Terence* more than 2 : 1.

II. COMPARISON OF THE USE OF THE WORDS *in particular*.

	<i>Hercle (Mehercle).</i>	<i>Edepol (Pol).</i>	<i>Ecastor (Mecastor).</i>
<i>Plautus</i>	642	606	118
<i>Terence</i>	98	77	7

<i>i.e.</i>	<i>Hercle.</i>	<i>Edepol (Pol).</i>	<i>Ecastor.</i>
<i>Plautus</i>	5.432	: 5.135	: 1
<i>Terence</i>	14	: 11	: 1

III. COMPARISON OF THE USE OF *Forms* OF THE SAME WORD.

	<i>Hercle. Mehercle.</i>	<i>Edepol.</i>	<i>Pol.</i>	<i>Ecastor. Mecastor.</i>
<i>Plautus</i>	639 3	356	250	101 17
[<i>i.e.</i> 213 : 1		1.425 : 1		6 : 1]
<i>Terence</i>	96 2	22	55	5 2
[<i>i.e.</i> 48 : 1		1 : 2.5		2.5 : 1]

i.e. *Plautus* prefers form *Edepol* to *Pol* in ratio 1.5 : 1.

Terence prefers form *Pol* to *Edepol* in ratio 2.5 : 1.

NOTE.—In both poets, women prefer the form *Pol* to *Edepol* (*Plautus*, 81 : 27, *i.e.* 3 : 1 ; *Terence*, 46 : 10, *i.e.* 4.6 : 1) ; while men prefer the form *Edepol* to *Pol* (*Plautus*, 329 : 169, *i.e.* 2 : 1 ; *Terence*, 12 : 9, *i.e.* 1.3 : 1). See § VIII., Table 3, below.

IV. THE USE OF THESE WORDS BY MEN AND WOMEN DISTINGUISHED.

(Me)hercle.

A. (ME)HERCLE is used altogether by *men* in *Plautus* and *Terence*.

NOTE.—There are *four* possible exceptions to this rule ; cases where, according to the Mss., *hercle* is used by *women*. These have all been emended by various editors, to conform to the general rule, as laid down by Gellius, *Noct. Att.* XI. 6.

These cases are the following :—

1. Plaut. *Casina* 982. Ritschl and Ussing both give the speech “Haud mentire hercle ; nam pa . . .” to a woman, the former to *Cleostrata*, the latter to *Myrrhina*. The passage is very corrupt ; the *hercle* of the other Mss. is indecipherable in the Ambrosian, though the space would admit it. The state of the text also makes it doubtful as to the persons to whom this and the two preceding speeches should be referred. Several of the Mss., including the Ambrosian, do not separate this speech from the *Egone* just preceding. The Delphin Edition gives the words “haud mentire hercle, etc.,” to *Olympio*. So Dissalde.

2. Plaut. *Cistell.* 50. *Gymnasium*. “Equidem hercle addam operam sedulo.” Emended by Seyffert (*Stud.* p. 15), “*hanc* addam, etc.”

3. Plaut. *Merc.* 719. *Dorippa*. “Cupio hercle scire ; sed tu me temptas sciens.” Bothe gives the first part to *Lysimachus*, and the last to *Dorippa* (reading also *sic* for *sed*). Ussing brackets the line as unsuited to the context. Weise retains the line, considering this use of *hercle* a fault of the poet, and as tending among other things to show that the play was not written by Plautus.

4. Plaut. *Trucul.* 210. *Astaphium*. “Ha ! Ha ! (h)ercle quieui.” This is the reading of most of the Mss. The Ambrosian, however, has “Ha quieui.” So Studemund.

(M)ecastor.

B. (M)ECASTOR is used altogether by *women* in Plautus and Terence.

NOTE. — There are *two* possible exceptions to this rule, as follows :

1. Plaut. *Asin.* 930, where the Mss. give the speech "Ecastor qui, etc." to *Argyrippus*. Given to *Philaenium* by Pareus.

2. Plaut. *Asin.* 898, where the Mss. give the speech "Ecastor dignus est" to the *Parasitus*. Given to *Artemona* by Acidalius.

(Ede)pol.

C. (EDE)POL is used by both men and women, in Plautus and Terence. The ratios are as follows :—

	Used by men.	Used by women.	Ratio.
<i>Plautus</i>	498	108	$4\frac{1}{2} : 1$
<i>Terence</i>	21	56	$1 : 2\frac{1}{2}$

i.e. *Edepol* (*Pol*) is rather a *man's* oath in Plautus and a *woman's* in Terence. It has been shown above that men preferred the form *Edepol* to *Pol*, and women the form *Pol* to *Edepol*.

V. COMPARISON OF THE USE OF (*Me*)*hercle* AND (*Ede*)*pol* BY MEN IN PLAUTUS AND TERENCE.

In *Plautus*, men swear (1) by *Hercules* 638 times ; (2) by *Pollux* 498.

In *Terence*, men swear (1) by *Hercules* 98 times ; (2) by *Pollux* 21.

i.e. Ratio (*Me*)*hercle* to (*Ede*)*pol* in *Plautus*, 1.3 : 1.

Ratio (*Me*)*hercle* to (*Ede*)*pol* in *Terence*, 5 : 1.

VI. COMPARISON OF THE USE OF (*Ede*)*pol* AND (*M*)*ecastor* BY WOMEN, IN PLAUTUS AND TERENCE.

In *Plautus*, women swear (1) by *Pollux* 108 times ; (2) by *Castor* 118.

In *Terence*, women swear (1) by *Pollux* 56 times ; (2) by *Castor* 7.

i.e. Ratio (*Ede*)*pol* to (*M*)*ecastor* in *Plautus* 1 : 1+.

Ratio (*Ede*)*pol* to (*M*)*ecastor* in *Terence* 8 : 1.

VII. GENERAL STATEMENT OF §§ V. AND VI.

In PLAUTUS, men swear about equally (1.3 : 1) by *Hercules* and by *Pollux*, and women about equally (1 : 1+) by *Pollux* and by *Castor*.

In *TERENCE*, men prefer *Hercules* to *Pollux* in the ratio 5 : 1 ; and women prefer *Pollux* to *Castor* in the ratio 8 : 1.

VIII. TABLES SHOWING THE USE OF THESE WORDS BY VARIOUS CLASSES OF CHARACTERS.

(N.B. The numbers after the sign + indicate the occurrences of the forms in parenthesis.)

1. ECATOR (MECATOR).

	UXOR.	LENA.	MERET.	ANCILLA.	MULIER.	SOROR.	OBSTET.	ANUS.	VIRGO.	MATRONA.	TOTAL.
Amphitruo ...	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Asinaria.....	8	3	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14*
Aulularia.....	+ 1	.....	.....	2+1	.....	.....	2+2
Bacchides	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Captivi.....
Casina	13+2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13+2
Cistellaria	2	5	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Curculio.....
Epidicus
Menaechmi..	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	4+1	7+1
Mercator	2	.....	2+1	.....	.....	2+1	.....	.....	6+2
Miles Glor....	1+1	3	2+1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6+2
Mostellaria	2	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Persa	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2
Poenulus	4+1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4+1
Pseudolus
Rudens.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Stichus.....	1+1	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	4+1
Trinummus...
Truculentus	11+4	6+2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17+6
<i>Plautus</i>	19	8	27+6	14+3	21+5	3	.....	4+2	1	4+1	101+17
<i>Terence</i>	3	.....	1+1	.....	1	+1	.....	.....	5+2

Grand Total, Plautus and Terence, 106+19.

* Including two doubtful cases. See § IV., B., above.

2. HERCLE (MEHERCLE).

	I. MEN.																				
	SERV.	ADUL.	SENE.	DEUS.	DOX.	MERC.	PARASIT.	CAPT.	PUER.	PROL.	TARP.	LENO.	MILES.	CACULA.	PISC.	FRATER.	SYC.	COQ.	ADVOC.	VILLICUS.	POENUS.
Amphitruo.	4	.....	.....	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Asinaria ...	31	5	1	.....	.....	4	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Aulularia ...	6	.....	18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	.....	.....	.....
Bacchides...	10	5	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Captivi ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	4	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Casina ...	18	.....	17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cistellaria	3	3	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Curculio ...	3	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	2	5	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Epidicus ...	7	4	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Menaechmi.	7	25	4	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Mercator...	4	14	24	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	.....
Miles Glor.	21	3	6	.....	.....	1	3	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mostellaria.	20	6	14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Persa ...	11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	7	.....	.....	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Poenulus ...	15	18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	6	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	2	4
Pseudolus...	16	2	7+1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	9	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rudens ...	12	.....	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16+1	.....	.....	18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Stichus ...	6	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	16+1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Trinummus	9	2	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....
Truculentus	6	15	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Plautus...	209	109	130+1	1	2	5	44+1	4	13	6	2	43+1	18	2	18	3	3	11	1	2	4
Terence...	39+1	28	19	.....	.....	.....	8+1	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

3. EDEPOL (POL).

	I. MEN.																										
	SERV.	DEUS.	DUX.	ADUL.	MERC.	SENE.	CAPT.	LORAR.	PARASIT.	TARP.	CHOR.	LENO.	MILES.	PUER.	COQUOS.	SYC.	CACULA.	PISC.	FRATER.	ADVOC.	VILLICUS.	POENUS.	MEDICUS.	DANISTA.	TOTAL MEN.	UXOR.	ANCILLA.
Amphitruo.	12+1	4+3	6+4																						22+ 8	2	1
Asinaria ...	8+5			3+5	1+2	2+2																			14+14	1+2	
Aulularia ...	+2			2		6+7																			10+11		
Bacchides...	7+1			2+7		6+5									2+2										15+13		
Captivi ...						3+4	8+9	1																	12+13	(No won	
Casina ...	11+3					4+6																			15+ 9		+1
Cistellaria	+1																								+ 1	1	+1
Curculio ...	2+1			1					1+2	3	1	1													9+ 3		
Epidicus ...	4+2					7+2							+1												13+ 5		
Menaechmi.	2			16+4		1+1																			25+ 5		
Mercator ...	2			10+5		9+1			5																21+ 6		
Miles Glor.	10+8			1+2		3+2																			19+16		3+7
Mostellaria.	6+5			3+1		15+2							4+2												25+ 8		+3
Persa ...	9+3																								14+ 8		+5
Poenulus ...	5+4			6+3																					17+10		+1
Pseudolus...	8+5					3+1							2+1	+1											27+11	(No won	
Rudens ...	4+2					7+3							7+4		1	1	2+1	1							17+10		
Stichus ...	4+1					1+1							6+2												17+ 4		
Trinummus	3+1			3		18+9			6					1						5+2					29+10	(No won	
Truculentus	2			5+3																					8+ 4		2+1
Plautus ...	99+45	4+3	6+4	53+30	1+2	85+46	8+9	1	15+6	3	1	19+10	5+5	2	3+2	7+1	1	4+3	5+2	1	2+1	1	1	2	329+169	4+2	6+2
Terence ...	5			+2		7+7																			12+9		3+1

